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SCIENCE

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FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 8, 1904.

CONVOCATION WEEK.

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The second of the convocation week meetings of scientific and learned societies leaves no doubt as to the wisdom of the general plan, though it is evident that a final solution can only be reached by gradual evolution. The meetings held at St. Louis, Philadelphia, Pittsburg, Princeton and elsewhere brought together large groups of scientific men, and the programs of papers and other features, both formal and informal, were satisfactory and profitable. With the exception of the first of the convocation week meetings held last winter at Washington, when practically all the scientific societies met together, so many scientific men have not simultaneously attended the meetings of their societies. Last winter there was some friction in the relations of the numerous societies meeting together for the first time and partly confluent in their scope; but such friction naturally leads to attrition and adjustment. When individuals or societies are isolated there are always excrescences in process of formation, which require friction for their removal.

We can not, consequently, regard the meetings this year as wholly satisfactory. The attendance of the meeting of the American Association and its affiliated societies at St. Louis was not as large as had been expected. It seems unfortunate that